

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants are submitting herewith new figures 10(a), 10(b), 11(a), 11(b), 12(a), 12(b), 16(a) and 16(b) replacing the original sheets. These amended figures were intended for submission with the response to the first Office Action in which the Examiner indicated the objection to the drawings, and a paper supporting the amendments to the figures was indeed included with such response. Unfortunately, due to a clerical error the actual figures attached to the response were copies of the original figures rather than the amended figures. This error was repeated in the second Office action response. Applicants regret this clerical error and any confusion such error may have caused.

Support for the modifications to the figures was provided in a letter dated December 3, 2003, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. The amended figures show the pulling unit, (element 11 in all amended figures) the processing line, (elements 13 in the amended figure representing portions of the processing line) an edge channel with a section closed, (element 4(b)) and an edge channel with the lid open, (element 4(a)). While element 4(a) does not show the open lid to avoid cluttering the figure, the opening lids are clearly illustrated in figure 19 as elements 6(a), 6(b), 7(a) and 7(b).

For the above reasons applicants respectfully request that the new figures 10(a), 10(b), 11(a), 11(b), 12(a), 12(b), 16(a) and 16(b) be entered and the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Regarding claim 15, the rejection states that it is not clear what "opening of the channel(s) to release at least one edge" encompasses. The Examiner questions "how does opening the lids of the channel releases the edge when pulling unit 11 is securing the edge in step IV?"

Claim 15 has been amended to clearly indicate that upon opening of the lids of channels 4a and 4b through which the edges are guided to the take up roller 11, the web which was prevented from moving along the conveyance direction but was directed in a different path can now be entrained by the edges in the conveyance direction. The sentence "to release said at least one edge so as..." has been deleted to avoid any possible confusion as to how the process operates. What this language was intended to indicate is that the edge is no longer confined by the channel and moving along a path that prevents the rest of the web to follow. Applicants believe that the amendment to the claim eliminates any possibility of confusion as to the effect of the step "opening the lids" and that in view of the present amendment, claim 15 is believed to be allowable. Such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Claim 17 is dependent of claim 15 and should therefore also be allowed.

In addition, it is submitted that with allowance of independent claim 15, dependent claims directed to species of the invention should also be acted upon and allowed. These dependent species are claims 16 and 18-21.

New claim 29 has been added to cover an embodiment where the transverse cutting of the web occurs ahead of the channel(s) as shown in the figures and described in the specification, therefore no new matter has been introduced. This claim is dependent of claim 15 and should also be allowed.

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Amendment Dated: March 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 12/29/04

DTG1-107US

CONCLUSION.

Applicants have made a bonafide effort to respond constructively to the Office Action dated 12/29/04 and believe that following entry of this amendment this application is now in proper for allowance. Therefore applicants earnestly solicit reconsideration of the objection to the drawings and the rejection of claims 15 and 17 and early allowance of all non cancelled claims. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any cancelled claims in a separate application.

Finally, in an effort to expedite the completion of the examination of this application, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss any points that may require clarification at the telephone numbers given bellow.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Figure(s) 8 (4 sheets)
Copy of December 3, 2003 letter

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: March 7, 2005

